

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

A newsletter dedicated to keeping Renton's communities informed

Issue 7, April 2010

Good News from Neighborhoods

- Newly formed Sunset Neighborhood is holding their first Egg Hunt at Highlands Neighborhood Center and recently added a teenager to their board!
- Honey Creek recently held a Neighborhood Progressive Dinner and is planning a Wine Tasting for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
- Renton Hill is hosting a neighborhood Egg Hunt at Philip Arnold Park
- Tiffany Park plans monthly walks in their neighborhood to pick up litter
- Kennydale is holding a weeding party through their Garden Club
- Wonderland Estates is having a Pancake Breakfast as a "thank you" for saving their neighborhood
- Heritage Garden is the first neighborhood to install solar lighting through the Neighborhood Grant Program!



Sunset Neighborhood
Egg Hunt

Fire & Emergency Services in Neighborhoods

What type of numbers on your home are most visible by emergency response vehicles? This is one of the many questions that the Renton Fire and Emergency Services Department can help you answer. Besides responding to fires and emergencies, the Fire Department would like to expand their connections into the community by attending neighborhood meetings. "We would like you to know how your fire department can serve you better," explained Rick Marshall, Battalion Chief. "We offer training in first aid, CPR and can inform you on defibrillators and their public access," he added. The importance of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in your home, along with a discussion of how the Renton Fire Department operates, are other topics that can be covered. "We emphasize calling 911 for emergencies and suspicions (of any kind) and explain how calls are sorted," said Rick. "We are here to serve you!" If you would like a Renton Fire and Emergency Services Department Battalion Chief to speak at your neighborhood meeting, please contact Norma McQuiller nmcquiller@rentonwa.gov or Wendy Kirchner wkirchner@rentonwa.gov. ...As for the numbers on your home...contrast is best, BIG, **dark** numbers on a light colored background!

Book Your Picnic!

Summer is just right around the corner and picnic slots are filling up fast! If you haven't already, it is time to reserve a date for your neighborhood's picnic! Please contact Norma McQuiller nmcquiller@Rentonwa.gov or Wendy Kirchner wkirchner@Rentonwa.gov for an application and available dates. The designated time-frame in which to hold a city supported picnic is May through the 2nd week of September (major holidays excluded). The earlier the applications are submitted, the more likely the dates and funding will be available.

Picnic Workshop

April 19th at Renton City Hall, 6:30 pm.

Tips for planning, promoting and hosting successful picnics

Learn about our [On-line Cookbook](#) featuring your favorite pot luck dishes

Discover ways to make **healthy** picnic food



Getting to Know Our Neighborhood Liaisons

When asked to serve as a volunteer neighborhood liaison, Mark Day was not aware of the Neighborhood Program, but his predecessor, Commander Curtis Smalling told him, “this a good gig, trust me you’ll like this!” he recalls. That was eight years ago!

Mark has been a “beloved” employee in the City of Renton Police Department for 23 years. As a detective sergeant, he supervises crime scenes, collects evidence and pulls criminal records. “I’m still waiting to solve my first crime!” he stated. Born, raised and employed in Renton, Mark felt a “commitment to the city and the people who live here” and wanted to give back to his community. As a liaison, he “enjoys meeting residents and watching them take ownership of the city as much as I do.” Mark has seen a lot of transformations in neighborhoods over the years. “There’s a lot of diversity in age and race these days, we’re not an old community anymore.” he added. His first experience serving as a liaison was at a Kenndale neighborhood picnic. “There were so many people there, that I wondered if there were any neighborhoods left in Renton!” Mark remembers. What he recalls most though is “a lot of families mingling, eating and having a good time.” The Police Department handles many adverse scenarios and at that picnic, Mark’s response was, “WOW, it’s nice to see the good side of our city!” Before his role as a detective, Mark was a patrol officer for the City, then spent many years as a canine officer with his “partner,” Buck. “Buck was as close to me as my own family,” he said. Mark has also faced some adversity...thirteen years ago, he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a severe form of blood cancer. He has survived two bone marrow transplants and massive kidney failure and yet remains incredibly upbeat! “I actually died twice and was brought back!” Mark recalled. During his bout with cancer “Buck was my positive force, especially in my lowest moments.” Unfortunately, Buck also contracted cancer during Mark’s battle and eventually died in his arms. Mark is currently on kidney dialysis hoping to wrap up that phase of treatment very soon. Has all this slowed him down? Not a bit...on the contrary it seems to have sparked more flames in his zest for life! Mark continues to work (he’s the oldest police officer on the Renton force), keeps his feelers out for neighborhood issues and has just written a document on the “History of Canines for the City of Renton.” This former UW football scholar recently celebrated 40 years of marriage with his high school sweetheart, has three grown children and four grandchildren. Even though he has overcome more than many people, his eyes glow and his voice is full of gusto as he talks about the joys in his life today: being with friends, spending time with his grandchildren, exercising, telling stories, being outdoors and escaping to their cabin in Eastern Washington with his family. “My life has been a remarkable ride and I’m not ready to get off!” Mark exclaimed. That pretty much sums up Mark Day...REMARKABLE!!



ReMarkable Mark Day

Community Events

Seahawks 12K at The Landing Sunday, April 11

3 Runs to choose from

Seahawks 12K Run
8:30 a.m.

**Valley Medical Center
5K Run/Walk**
9 a.m.

BECU Half-mile Kids Run
10:30 a.m.

The Landing Block Party
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Live entertainment,
Bounce houses
Face painters
Games
Art show and more!

For more information visit
www.seahawks12Krun.com

Spring Festival Saturday, April 17 Piazza Renton

South 3rd & Burnett Ave S
1 to 5 p.m.
Arts & craft vendors, food,
music & kids activities
FREE!

Downtown Renton Poker Run Saturday, April 17

12 to 4 p.m.
Sign up at Piazza Park
(South 3rd & Burnett Ave S)
Suggested donation of
canned food or \$1 for the
Salvation Army Food Bank

Annual Community Garage Sale Saturday, April 24

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Highway

Neighbors Connecting

We want to thank all our residents who attended and participated in the City of Renton's annual Neighbor to Neighbor Leadership Workshop!

"Together We Can" focused on various communication methods and the importance of staying connected in our neighborhoods. Staff representing several city departments were available to talk with residents, share information and answer questions. After some networking and a delicious breakfast, Mayor Law welcomed everyone citing that "the city's neighborhood program serves as a device for connecting neighborhoods to the city, to businesses and with each other."

Thomas Whittmore from the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods was our guest facilitator. His opening question, "How do **YOU** reach out to your neighbors?" caught everyone's attention immediately. He spoke about networking within neighborhoods and the roles that social media can play, which opened the gateway for the featured speakers. Dean Radford from the *Renton Reporter* and Seth Long from Serra Media presented information on how to utilize the new interactive website [MyRenton](#) then talked about the benefits of communicating online. Laura Silbernagel from Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association revealed tips on setting up a neighborhood website and offered suggestions of other methods of communication that her neighborhood has used including sandwich boards and newsletters. Thomas then guided everyone in a paper airplane exercise which led to sharing and discussing ideas on networking and strategies for overcoming communication barriers.



Paper Airplane Exercise

Leaders Respond to Workshop

Thank you, thank you, thank you! There was a great level of energy and it was very well organized! I hope you do this every year, it was fabulous!

- Carmen Sigman, Wonderland Estates

This was well worth my time and I thank you! I appreciate the great attendance by City staff and all the Information tables.

- Kim Browne, Kennydale

There were some wonderfully diverse suggestions. I had lots of information to take home.

- Sally Cummings, Steeple Chase Hills

It was really interesting to meet and share ideas with other neighborhoods.

- Anita Bryce, Victoria Hills

The airplane exercise was really fun and a great way to exchange ideas quickly. Folks need a lot more convincing about social media, though and this was a good start.

- Liz Stewart, North Renton

There was lots of energy and ideas. The discussion group was very useful to me.

- Dina Davis, Renton Hill

I learned about [MyRenton](#) and how useful it can be. I didn't know about it before this workshop.

- Michelle Lemke, Rolling Hills



Residents Sharing Ideas

Suggestions for Future Workshops

- Hold a discussion on ways in which we can create cohesive communities in highly culturally diverse neighborhoods.
- Invite PTA's & school district personnel from some schools to address potential services and partnerships relating to diversity and language barriers in neighborhoods.
- Bring together more cross generational and cultural representations within our community.
- Increase the sharing of successful ideas from our varied neighborhoods.
- Provide hands on skills at workshops (using computers)
- Offer suggestions on ways teens can get involved in their neighborhoods.



Neighbor To Neighbor

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Neighborhood Community Projects

Help the City of Renton celebrate Arbor Day/Earth Day by teaming up with our Parks Department for projects at Ron Regis Park. Join friends and neighbors as you roll up your sleeves on a Saturday morning to make a difference. For registration information contact the Community Services Department at 425-430-6600. Volunteers should dress for the weather. Minors must have parent permission and fill out a "parent form." Children 14 years and under must be accompanied by an adult/guardian.

**Arbor Day/Earth Day
Saturday, April 24
Ron Regis Park**

1501 Orcas Avenue S.E.

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Check-in begins at 9:00 a.m.

From 12 to 1:00 p.m. we will host a Hot Dog Lunch as a "thank you" for volunteering!



Arbor Day '09

Another community project at which your neighborhood can volunteer is the Green and Clean Saturday Weeding at the Renton Highlands Library. For registration information contact the Community Services Department at 425-430-6600. Volunteers should dress for the weather. Minors must have parent permission and fill out a "parent form." Children 14 years and under must be accompanied by an adult/guardian.

**Green and Clean
Saturday, May 15
Highlands Library**

Help Make the Census Count!

During March, you should have received a 2010 Census form. Please take a few minutes to answer the 10 short questions and then return it in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail it back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form. By completing the Census form and mailing it back, you can directly affect the quality of life in our community. The data can help us receive our share of federal funding for programs and services. An accurate count of residents helps to determine how more than **\$400 billion** dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

The information from the Census affects the numbers of seats our state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. People from many walks of life use census data to: advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and much more. Your answers from the census questionnaire are strictly confidential with the Census Bureau. Your personal information (including name, address and phone number) is not shared and your identity is safe!

For more information visit www.2010census.gov

Call toll free 1-866-872-6868

Renton Farmers Market

**June through September
Tuesdays, from 3-7 p.m.**

Downtown at the Piazza

Vendors, live entertainment,
kids activities and chef demos!

Fresh and local produce,
flowers, honey, eggs, meat
and baked goods!



To get our weekly newsletter
and schedule of events, visit:
www.rentonfarmersmarket.com

For more information contact
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